Implications of Recent Supreme Court ruling on Industrial Strikes

2096. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has since studied the implications of the recent Supreme Court ruling that even a legal strike would entail wage loss unless the strike was justified in the larger interest of the society; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The essence of the judgement of the Supreme Court is that strike period wages should not be paid to workers unless the strike is both legal and justified. Copies of the judgement have been sent to the Lobour Departments of various State Governments and major public sector undertakings requesting them to bring the contents of the judgement to the notice of all concerned for guidance.

Expert Committee on Beedi Workers

2097. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLIAPPA:
SHRI S. AUSTIN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the delay in setting up an Expert Committee on Beedi Workers;

(b) whether it is a fact that wideranging representations have been recieved by Labour Minister to set up an Expert Committee on Tobacco; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) A tripartite Central Advisory Committee is there to advise the Central Government on matters relating to beedi workers welfare. Likewise, State Advisory Committees have been set up at the State level. Beyond that, there is no proposal under consideration at present to constitute an Expert Committee on Beedi Workers by the Ministry of Labour.

(b) and (c) The various representations including from Central Trade Unions have been forwarded to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and a reply clarifying the position as advised by the Minsitry of Health and Family Welfare has been sent to the Central Trade Unions.

Census about Beedi Workers in Tamil Nadu

2098. SHRI S. AUSTIN:
SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLIAPPA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 1991 census figures have been studied to update the beedi workers census in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what distinctions are there between the last two census in case of beedi workers in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been deterioration in their living standards?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Occupational classification of workers industry-wise including beedi workers as per 1991 census is not available at present.

(c) No such report has come to the notice of the Government.

National Wage Board for Raising the Bonus Ceiling etc.

2099. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Wage Board or panel is proposed to be, or has been, set